

His Excellency Kim Jong-Il
Chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Letter of Protest

We received a report that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has conducted a nuclear test. On behalf of the 2,870 cities in 134 countries and regions, we vehemently protest this act.

We have worked long and hard for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and your callous trampling on our hopes is an outrage. Especially now, with global momentum finally mounting toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and the international community working desperately toward a successful NPT Review Conference next year, your test is a wet blanket obstructing these efforts. The international community cannot condone such behavior. Following on the heels of your recent missile test, this provocative act could well accelerate the nuclear programs of nuclear-armed states and other states seeking nuclear arms. Thus, we condemn your test in the strongest possible terms. You have done serious harm to world peace and stability.

We demand that you contemplate more deeply the inhumanity of nuclear weapons; listen conscientiously to the *hibakusha*, who tell us, "Nuclear weapons are an absolute evil that threaten to extinguish the entire human family;" abandon immediately all nuclear weapons and development programs; return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; develop a diplomatic approach without reliance on nuclear deterrence; and play a sincere and constructive role in good-faith negotiations for universal nuclear disarmament.

May 26, 2009

The Conference of Mayors for Peace

Tadatoshi Akiba	President	Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan
Tomihisa Taue	Vice President	Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan
Donald L. Plusquellic	Vice President	Mayor of Akron, USA
Bob Parker	Vice President	Mayor of Christchurch, New Zealand
Leonardo Domenici	Vice President	Mayor of Florence, Italy
Stephan Weil	Vice President	Mayor of Hannover, Germany
Tine Gielis	Vice President	Mayor of Laakdal, Belgium
Catherine Margate	Vice President	Mayor of Malakoff, France
Alison Firth	Vice President	Mayor of Manchester, UK
Aldrin L. San Pedro	Vice President	Mayor of Muntinlupa, Philippines
Roman Grebennikov	Vice President	Mayor of Volgograd, Russia
Ivan Knez	Executive Official	Mayor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia
Josep Mayoral i Angtigas	Executive Official	Mayor of Granollers, Spain
Khder Kareem	Executive Official	Mayor of Halabja, Iraq
Robert Harvey	Executive Official	Mayor of Waitakere, New Zealand
Luc Dehaene	Executive Official	Mayor of Ypres, Belgium